going to fix a time limit by which the officers will pay the amount to the subscribers, as there is a lot of Corruption.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: The question is, in fact, about the abuse of the Provident Fund money during this period—the period of your own Ministership. How many officers have been punished for misusing the Prpvident Fund money?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, as I said, I do not have this informaion because this question broadly relates to the default of the three trading concerns.

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Mr. Minister, you must have at least the basic knowledge. *(Interruption)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. He has the basic knowledge. Rather more than that.

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: No, he does not have. He is not even able to reply. Mr. Malhotra has asked a very simple question.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The person is not paid even after six months or one year or more unitl and unless he pays the corruption money.

यानी अगर किसी को कोई आफिसर पे नहीं करता है, उस आफिसर के खिलाफ आप क्या कार्यवाही करते हैं। क्या इसके लिए आप कोई टाइम लिमिट फिक्स करेंगे?

Are you going to fix a time limit by which the money must be paid?

मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजलः आपका प्रोटेक्शन चाहिए। मल्होत्रा साहब ने जो सवाल पूछा है वह बिल्कुल स्पेसिफिक है। मैंने भी शुरू में पूछा था लेकिन उसका जवाब नहीं दे सके और आपने दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी अलाऊ कर दिया। सवाल यह है कि जिन लोगों को उनका प्रोविडेंट फंड रिटायर होने के भी कई कई सालों तक नहीं दिया जाता—अभी मंत्री जी ने इसका जवाब यह दिया है कि इसके लिए लिमिट है कि उनको तीन महीने में, छह महीने में पेमेंट मिल जाना चाहिए लेकिन अगर किसी वजह से किसी को पेमेंट नहीं हो पाता है तो क्या उस पेमेंट पर मजीद सूद दिया जाता है?

सरकार तो सूद देने के लिए तैयार है लेकिन आपका जो अफसर बैठा हुआ है वह सूद पर सूद चढ़ाता है लेकिन पैसा उस वक्त तक अदा नहीं होने देता जब तक रिश्वत उसकी जेब में नहीं पहुंच जाती। सवाल यह है कि उन अफसरों के खिलाफ क्या आप कोई कार्यवाही करेंगे? इसमें आपका भी नुकसान है क्योंकि वह सूद-दर-सूद देता रहता है लेकिन पेमेंट नहीं करता जब तक रिश्वत नहीं पहुंच जाती है।

[Illegible]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, actually, this supplementary does not arise out of this question. There are delays in payment of the dues to workers- who are the subscribers. It is a separate question. But I will answer that. Today there has been much improvement because in all the regions, we have gone into computerisation and as a result of computerisation, the service has been much faster. But there is a need for a lot of improvement and we are trying our best.

Decline in Domestic Savings Rate

*195. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Statistical Organisation has estimated that the rate of domestic savings has declined sharply in recent years;

(b) if the answer, to (a) is in the affirmative, the factors contributing to this decline; and

(c) the measures Government is contemplating to prevent any further fall in the rate of savings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) The rate of gross domestic saving is estimated annually by the CSO. While on a long-range basis the rate has gone up, there have always been annual ups and downs. Significantly, the latest estimate available, namely the estimate for 1993-94, indicates a position better than that for the previous year.

The various economic reforms undertaken by the Government are expected to have a cumulatively favourable impact on aggregate savings.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Sir, I am embarrassed by the Minister's answer because it is public knowledge that the data published by the Central Statistical Organisation indicates that the rate of domestic savings has fallen dramatically from the level of 24 per cent in the latc'80's to the level of around 21 per cent in the carly'90's and this marginal improvement in 1993-94 does not alter the story. Therefore, I think that the kind of dissembling which this answer represents, docs not help the nation, does not help the Parliamentary system of the Government at all. But I can see the Minister's problem. To be fair, the problem lies with the Ministry of Finance and not with the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation. My question is: "What docs the Government propose to do to improve the rate of savings?" And the answer I get is: "The various economic reforms undertaken by the Government arc expected to have a cumulatively favourable impact on aggregate savings." If you ask me. Sir, I would say that the Government's economic reforms are intended to lower the domestic rate of savings. Now, I would just like to state the three categories of savings. There are no Government savings but dis-savings. The Government Revenue Budget is deficit something by 35,000 crores of rupees to 40,000 crores of rupees which has to be covered by borrowing and printing of notes. On top of that, the Government is disinvesting in the manner of improvident families which sell off their pots and pans. The Government is selling the shares of the public undertakings. So, in the Government sector, there is no saving. If you take the poor, who constitutes the overwhelming majority of the country, given the double digit inflation, there is no question of their savings. They are having a marginal existence. The only possibility of savings lies with the upper middle class. But if you continue to lower excise and import duty on luxury consumption goods and invite the rich to consume, consume and consume, your rate of savings is bound to go down. Therefore, my specific question is: "Is the Government prepared to review the entire gamut of its economic policies in order to ensure an improvement in the rate of savings?" *Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Sir, the hon. Member knows... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, earlier, the Member was cmbarasscd by the answer. Now, the Minister is embarrassed by the question.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Sir, he has put the question and also given the answer. We are collecting the data. One the basis of available data, we are giving information what the rate of saving is, what are the reasons for decline in savings rate. On the point of Economic Policy, to which he has referred, the answer has already been given. Yes, there is a decline, but, as I have said in the answer, on a long-range basis the rate has gone up; there have been ups and downs. Sir, whatever information we receive from ..... *(Interruptions)* ....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary. ... *(interruptions)*...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I Will come to you.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: No, no. Sir, I crave your indulgence. I know, I am asking out of turn. The Minister's written reply is wrong because he says,

"On a long-range basis it has gone up.", but the fact of the matter is, on a long-range it has declined. So, the written anwser is specifically wrong. ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, the oral answer is correct.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Sir, from 1992-93 to 1993-94 there is only a marginal increase. In 1993-94, the rate is 20.2 per cent. Earlier, in 1992-93, it was 20 per cent. Therefore, sometimes it is up and sometimes it is down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the second supplementary. Have you a second supplementary? You have asked everything.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Sir, I will save the Minister from further embarrassment by not asking the second supplementary.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: But, Sir, we would like to ask...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, of course, I do not want to further embarrass him. I received a Report from the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation, Department of Statistics, New Delhi, just yesterday, and according to this Report, our Gross Domestic Savings in the household sector have gone up from 75.9 per cent, to 79.1 per cent. In the private sector they have gone up from 7.9 per cent to 19.7 per cent, but in the public sector they have gone down from 16.2 per cent to 1.2 per cent. This is the position. Now, I come to the average Gross Domestic Savings. According to the reply given to S.Q.186, asked by Shri Raj Nath Singh today, the Gross Domestic Saving in 1993-94 is 20.2 per cent. As rightly pointed out by my esteemed colleague, Shri Ashok Mitra, they have come down from 24 per cent to 20.2 per cent. And so far as the long-range period is concerned, from 1980-81 to 1993-94, in the public sector they have come down from 16.2 per cent to 1.2 per cent. How docs the hon. Minister explain this? Probably, he has not gone through this Report of his awn Department. If he had gone through it, he would not have said so, because in these particular indices that have been given in this Report, which I received just yesterday ------ and I had come from Jaipur only today morning --------- , regarding the capital formation by industry at constant prices, the share of agriculture in the total capital formation has declined from 18.8 per cent in 1980-81 to 10.9 per cent in 1993-94. Similarly, the index of industrial production, prepared by the Department, shows that the industrial production registered a growth rate of around 8.2 per cent during the years 1983—1991. Before the reforms, it remained stagnant. From 1991-92 to 1992-93, production registered a rise of only 2.3 per cent. I am talking about the industrial production growth rate. It has been 8.2 per cent prior to reforms. It is 2.3 per cent, after 1991, during the reform period. The domestic savings are also declining. How does he explain it and how docs he claim that over a long period it is going up? I mean, our domestic savings are going down, particularly in the public sector.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is referring to the future long period.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: When there is a decline in the strength of the Congress party.... *(Interruptions).*

SHRI G.G. SWELL: We would like to get the answer from the Finance Minister. *(Interruptions).* How do you expect the Minister for Programme Implementation to answer all these things? *(Interruptions).*

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: I have got the figures here. From 1950-51, 1951-52, this is the trend. From 1951-52 to 1993-94, there is an increase. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, let us pass on to the next question. *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is time to go. *(Interruptions).* I would like to put on the record all the questions as having been covered. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: The information contained in the annual

report is correct. *(Interruptions).* When I say, 'continuously increasing there may be decline also. *(Interruptions).* Everybody knows the reasons for the decline as well as the increase. We compile reports on the basis of whatever information, statistics, we receive. Hon. Members also know about the decline and the increase in the rate of savings. It is a larger question. *(Interruptions).*

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Minister, we are not able to understand what you are saying.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: My question was very specific. Is it not a fact.... *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I pass on Shri Jagmohan to Question No. 196. Shri Jagmohan.

*196. [The Questioner was absent. For answer vide *col.* ..... infra.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 197.

*197. [The Questioner (Shri Suresh Pachouri) was absent. For answer *vide* col ..... infra.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 198.

Irregular Trading in Special Import Licences

*198. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:J.
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the Observer of 30 January, 199S under the caption, "Cartels making fast buck in SIL trade";

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that majority of special import licences are in the custody of a handful of persons who have an easy access to the Ministry officials;

(d) if so, how many cases of irregular trading in special import licences have come to the notice of Government and what action has been taken in each of these cases; and

(e) what remedial step-. Government have taken or propose to take to put an end , to such an irregular trading in special import licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Special Import Licences, which are granted to specified categories of exporters, are freely transferable and tradeable in the market, at a premimum determined by the market forces and Government does not exercise any control over the determination of premium.

SHRI VIREN J, SHAH: Sir, if you look at the question, it reads, "Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in ' the Observer of 30 January, 1995 under the caption, "Cartels making fast buck in SIL trade";". That means, there are some allegations made and the question is whether the Government is aware of them. In reply to parts (a) to (e) of the question, the answer given is that Special Import Licences are freely transferable and tradeable in the market at a premium determined by the market forces. Mr. Chairman, I would request the hon. Minister to say, in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question, whether any such allegations have been made, what he read in newspapers and whether there is any truth in them. If the hon. Minister says that there is no truth in them, there is no need to proceed further.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I

*The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Viren J. Shah